

Indiana Trails Advisory Board

June 26, 2014 - 3:00 PM
Beck's Mill
4433 South Beck's Mill Road
Salem, Indiana 47167

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

All Terrain Vehicle Users- Neil McCammack
Environmental Groups- Don Bievenour (proxy)
Equestrians- Yvette Rollins
Four Wheel Drive Users- Ryan Sweany
Higher Education/Health- John McNichols
Hikers- Tim Calahan
Mountain Bikers- Tammy Mebane (proxy)
Off-Road Motorcyclists- Tom Hartman
Parks & Recreation Agencies- Melody Jones
Pedestrians- Pat Martin
Snowmobilers- Len Niesler
Trail Support Groups- Angie Pool
Users with Disabilities- David Meihls

Members Not Present:

Bicyclists
Water Trail Users

DNR Staff:

Nila Armstrong- Outdoor Recreation
Ira Auffenberg- Outdoor Recreation
Jewell Baxter- Customer Service
Dale Brier- Outdoor Recreation
Bob Bronson- Outdoor Recreation
Dan Ernst- Forestry
Amy Marisavljevic- Outdoor Recreation
Matt Stillwell- Outdoor Recreation

Guests:

Dan Armstrong
Roy F. Garrett- ABATE of Indiana
Bonne Wilcoxson- Hoosiers Hikers Council
Phil Wilcoxson- Hoosiers Hikers Council

Welcome

Chairwoman Yvette Rollins called the meeting to order at 3:12pm and thanked Tim Calahan for hosting.

Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves. Kevin Hardie gave his proxy to Donald Bievnour and David Fetterer gave his proxy to Tammy Mebane.

Amended Agenda

Amy Marisavljevic requested the Forest Report be given prior to the Department of Natural Resources Report. Pat Martin made the motion to approve the amended agenda and Neil McCammack seconded. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of March 6, 2014 minutes

Tim Calahan stated that a correction should be made under the Forest Report, which reads trail issues regarding the Knobstone; he said it should read issues regarding trails. Tim Calahan then made the motion to approve the amended minutes and Angie Pool seconded. Motion carried.

Department of Natural Resources Report

New Staff Person: Amy Marisavljevic introduced herself as the new DNR Trails Advisory Board (TAB) liaison and provided the group with her contact information.

National Trails Day Report: Amy reported that National Trails Day was June 7, 2014. The American Hiking Society event was celebrated in Indiana with a Governor's proclamation and variety of events including guided hikes, bicycle rides, paddling events, and trail clean ups throughout the state. The highlight of Trails Day celebration was the Speedway Trail Corridor dedication with Governor Pence followed by A Walk a Mile with Mike held on June 6.

Trails Plan Update: Amy announced that Greg Beilfuss, Recreation Planner at the Division of Outdoor Recreation, will be writing the 2015-2020 issue of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) later this year. The newest edition will include an entire chapter dedicated to an update of the *Hoosiers on the Move: The Indian State Trails, Greenways, and Bikeways Plan* from 2006. Greg will be gathering data for this chapter in two ways:

- a. **2014 Trails Plan Update Charrette-** The Division of Outdoor Recreation will host 2014 Trails Plan Update Charrette on Friday, July 11, 2014 at the Indiana Government Center. The charrette is open to all trail stakeholders in the state. Although a variety of trails issues will be addressed, the main focus will be updating the visionary trail system.
- b. **Survey-** Greg will also collect data through an online trail stakeholder survey that will be available July 15- August 15. Amy encouraged everyone to participate in the survey as well as forward it along to other trail stakeholders in their affiliate organizations.

Old Business

Travel Reimbursement: Amy informed the board that State of Indiana is now requiring two forms for anyone not already in the vendor system: a W-9 and a Direct Deposit Form. If you want to be reimbursed for travel, you must be in the vendor system and sign a travel voucher for that meeting provided by Amy. Travel reimbursement is available for both Trails Advisory Board members and their proxies. Dale Brier stated the information on checks must match what is on the forms in order to be paid. Also, he mentioned that for overnight travel you must have had traveled more than 50 miles from where you live.

Hoosier Outdoor Experience: Amy announced that the 2014 Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience will be September 20th and 21st at Fort Harrison State Park. The hours will be 10am – 6pm for both days. There will be over 50 activities and the event is free. The DNR is currently in the planning process, so please contact the Division of Outdoor Recreation soon with any questions or issues.

New Business

Forest Report: Dan Ernst, Assistant State Forester, stated the Division of Forestry has around 150,000 acres, 15 state forests, and over 500 miles of recreational trails. The Division of Forestry was founded over 100 years ago to responsibly manage the state's forest and its resources. It has since adopted a multi-use/ multi-benefit model that includes conservation, recreation, and education programming. Dan explained why timber harvests are a necessary part of responsible forest management. He then explained the timber harvest process and how they impact trails. This includes temporary re-routes during the harvest, but generally leaving the original trail in place and doing necessary trailwork after the harvest. He also explained that the money earned from the timber harvest does not go into trails or recreation. Dan answered general questions regarding the Division of

Forestry, accessibility, the bidding process, and invasive species. He encouraged all user groups that were curious about upcoming timber harvests and how they will impact trails to attend that State Forest's annual open house.

Recreational Trails Program: Bob Bronson reported that this year the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) has approximately \$1.2 million in funds. After federal and state administrative costs, the remaining fund is split three ways: 30% of the fund must go for motorized projects, 30% for non-motorized projects, and the remaining 40% is discretionary.

This year the Division of Outdoor Recreation received a total 18 applications. The withdrawal of two previous recipients allowed for 7 non-motorized projects to be funded. After explaining the criteria and scoring, Bob handed chairwoman Yvette Rollins the list of recommended projects, which included:

- **Converse Junction Trail**, 2.01 miles
- **Nickel Plate Trail**, 2.2 miles
- **White River Levee Trail**, 1.06 miles
- **Monon High Bridge Trail**, 0.42 miles
- **Wilbur Wright Trail**, 1.1 miles
- **Greensburg Connectivity Trail**, 0.32 miles
- **Chrisney Park Trail** .5 miles

Pat Martin inquired if Interlake State Recreation Area (SRA) was considered a multi-use trail. Dale Brier explained that it is primarily a motorized property; however, it is multi-use. David Meihls then brought up a concern about accessibility, in particular the use of hard-packed limestone screenings. David stated that in his opinion this is not an accessible surface material and the DNR should not accept RTP applications for a project that is not accessible. Bob Bronson disagreed, stating that RTP grant criteria will not change as it reflects widely accepted research that limestone screenings meet the firm and stable guidelines for an accessible trail surface material. Chairwoman Yvette Rollins reminded everyone that this was an ongoing educational process. She also mentioned that applicants not receiving funding, can re-apply and the Division of Outdoor Recreation are always willing to discuss how to improve their score. Neil McCammack made the motion to approve the seven projects and Pat Martin seconded. The motion passed. Bob then explained the next steps in the RTP process.

Users Group Reports

Snowmobilers: Len Neisler stated that he will be at Hoosier Outdoor Experience again this year.

All Terrain Vehicle Users: Neil McCammack reported that they recently completed the annual Miracle trail ride and it was well attended. This year they raised \$24,000 for Riley Children's Hospital. He said that they will also be attending the Hoosier Outdoor Experience again this year.

Pedestrians: Pat Martin said that they are working on a unique project that is a National Endowment for the Arts grant called Alternative River. The project will connect pedestrians, bike users and non-motorized people in downtown Terre Haute through art and design; reactivating an empty space of about 16 -20 blocks. They are finishing the plan now and are hoping to be published next month. The project will be fully ADA compliant. Pat reported that Terre Haute completed a trail, ½ mile in length and 20 feet wide, about a month ago on top of the Vectron gas pipe line. He said that it will all be ADA compliant and connects the National Road Heritage Trail. Finally, he said that he has also started an environmental assessment project in the field on the south end of Fairbanks Park for another trail that will be about 1.5 miles long. EPA is investigating lead contamination. After it is cleaned up, it will become a trailhead. Pat said that this project will be funded entirely with local funds.

Environmental Groups: Donald Bievenour reported that Friends of White River (FWR) will have a clean up on the White River in the Broad Ripple area on June 27th from 4-7pm. The sign up will be on their facebook page. Donald also shared information about the building of a dam on the White River in Anderson and that FWR officially oppose it.

Trail Support Groups: Angie Pool said The Greenways Foundation board has been working on a statewide trail maintenance fund. Senate bill 04 and House Bill 1307 were passed this session. Funding for the plan will be determined in summer session and The Greenways Foundation board plans to attend. Additionally, The Greenways Foundation has up to \$2,000 in grant money available to support trails. She also reported the Cardinal Greenway will have Walk Indiana, Indiana's only walking marathon, on September 6, 2014.

Hikers: Tim Calahan said that there has been an increase interest in trail running and ultra marathons on natural surface loop trails.

Four Wheel Drive Users: Ryan Sweany reported Redbird SRA had a clean-up day with Jasonville scouts helping out. Also, last weekend at Camp Riley in Bradford Woods, they gave rides to the kids. Ryan said that there may be extra vehicles at the Hoosier Outdoor Experience this year due to an Indy Jeep Junkies signing on to help them out this year. He also reported the Indiana 4 Wheel Drive Association (IFWDA) is exploring off road opportunities on the north end of the state. Ryan said their next meeting is August 10, 2014 and that he may be appointed DNR liaison.

Higher Education/Health: John McNichols talked about using Indiana universities and colleges as a resource. He wanted to give everyone a heads up that they are altering the Health/Recreation requirements; mainly it will just be name changes from recreation to health. Indiana State will be building a new Track and Field facility off of the Wabash River. A part of this project will be a trail that will connect the current National Road Heritage Trail to the new trail along the Wabash River. John mentioned that Dewey Point Wildlife Area will be getting a parking lot, courtesy of INDOT, this summer after the completion of a shelter and restroom using funds from the county and Riverscape Committee. This is an active wetland with about 18-20 eagles residing in the area; it is a part of the Wabash River wetland restoration project. It should help re-route migratory patterns.

Users with Disabilities: David Meihls encouraged everyone to look up the requirements for Other Powered Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMD). He said that land managers should get with emergency planners and responders to make sure that their policies have the necessary changes to follow the new rules and regulations.

Mountain Bikers: Tammy Mebane introduced herself as the new staff person at Hoosier Mountain Bikers Association (HMBA). HMBA is currently finishing up the RTP grant and trails at Southwestway Park. HMBA has also taken over the RTP grant for O'Bannon Wood State Park. They continue to work on trails in Brown County State Park; adding 12 more miles. In addition, they plan on building trails in Yellowwood State Forest. Tammy hopes to connect all the trails to have one large trail system for both mountain bikers and trail runners. Finally, she reported that current trails are attracting mountain bikers from a variety of states and boosting tourism.

Off-Road Motorcyclists: Tom Hartman said there was an off-road race at Interlake. It was the second one this year. It was very successful with good turnout and no injuries. The money generated through the race goes back into property. He said there was also a lot of new trail being put in by volunteers. The buildings are not open yet, but are beautiful. Roy Garrett added that ABATE of Indiana will be at the Moto G.P. at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on August 10 as well as the Hoosier Outdoor Experience.

Parks and Recreation: Melody Jones reported that Westfield celebrated the grand opening of Grand Park last weekend. It has over 400 acres of youth sports; the largest in the country with 26 diamonds, 31 fields, and 10 miles of paved trails. Sunday, they held a 5k on the trails as a part of the grand opening. She said that as of today, they have had over 400,000 visitors. They just announced a private partnership is bringing in a \$20 million indoor soccer facility with three full size fields, which will break ground this year and make the facility a year round destination. Melody said that the east boundary line of the park is the Monon trail and they have paved 2 more miles of the trail this year. The Monon Trail should be finished through Westfield next year for a total of 27 miles. Also, Westfield has over 80 miles of paved trails in their community, the most per capita in Indiana, and are currently working on four trail projects.

Equestrians: Yvette reported that the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act is coming up and they will be celebrating on September 27th, 2014 at Blackwell Horse Camp in the Hoosier National Forest (HNF) from 2:00-6:00 PM. She stated the Indiana Trail Riders and Hoosier Back Country Horseman also celebrated National Trails Day in June with 7 different locations of trail maintenance and building projects. Yvette said the organization fought a hard battle over a trail closing in the Deam Wilderness area at HNF. Ultimately they lost the battle as 24 trees were cut down to block and close ½ mile of trail. Currently, there is no signage mentioning the closure and no maintenance being done on the trail.

Bicyclists: No report

Water Trail Users: No report

Announcements

June 27	White River Clean Up with Friends of the White River, Broadripple area
July 11	2014 Trails Plan Charrette, Indiana Government Center- South in Indianapolis, IN
July 15- August 15	Division of Outdoor Recreation Trails Stakeholder Survey
August 10	Indianapolis Moto GP, Indianapolis Motor Speedway
September 6	Walk Indiana, Cardinal Greenway in Muncie, IN
September 20-21	Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience, Fort Harrison State Park
September 27	Wilderness Celebration, Hoosier National Forest

Future Meeting Dates

September 4, 2014	Michigan City, IN
December 4, 2014	Indiana Government Center- South in Indianapolis, IN

Adjournment- Neil McCammack made motion to adjourn the meeting and Len Neisler seconded. The motion passed. Time was 5:03pm.